GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6205
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
NEW PATENT LEGISLATION
BIR SING MAHATO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to submit new patent legislation in Parliament by December 2000 in order to enter into product patent regime by 2005, as per TRIP agreement under WTO; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) and(b) In order to meet India`s international obligations which came into force from 1.1.2000 under the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), a Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1970, namely, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.1999. The said Bill is presently under consideration of a Joint Committee of Parliament.

As per the transition period available under the TRIPS Agreement, India has time till 31.12.2004 to introduce product patent protection in areas of technology not protected so far.